

Table 31 (page 1 of 2). Leading causes of death and numbers of deaths, by age: United States, 1980 and 2005

[Data are based on death certificates]

[Click here for updated data](#)

Age and rank order	1980		2005	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
Under 1 year				
...	All causes	45,526	All causes	28,440
1.	Congenital anomalies	9,220	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	5,552
2.	Sudden infant death syndrome	5,510	Disorders related to short gestation and low birth weight, not elsewhere classified	4,714
3.	Respiratory distress syndrome	4,989	Sudden infant death syndrome	2,230
4.	Disorders relating to short gestation and unspecified low birthweight	3,648	Newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy	1,776
5.	Newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy	1,572	Newborn affected by complications of placenta, cord and membranes	1,110
6.	Intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia	1,497	Unintentional injuries	1,083
7.	Unintentional injuries	1,166	Respiratory distress of newborn	860
8.	Birth trauma	1,058	Bacterial sepsis of newborn	834
9.	Pneumonia and influenza	1,012	Neonatal hemorrhage	665
10.	Newborn affected by complications of placenta, cord, and membranes	985	Necrotizing enterocolitis of newborn	546
1–4 years				
...	All causes	8,187	All causes	4,756
1.	Unintentional injuries	3,313	Unintentional injuries	1,664
2.	Congenital anomalies	1,026	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	522
3.	Malignant neoplasms	573	Malignant neoplasms	377
4.	Diseases of heart	338	Homicide	375
5.	Homicide	319	Diseases of heart	151
6.	Pneumonia and influenza	267	Influenza and pneumonia	110
7.	Meningitis	223	Septicemia	85
8.	Meningococcal infection	110	Cerebrovascular diseases	62
9.	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	84	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	58
10.	Septicemia	71	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	56
5–14 years				
...	All causes	10,689	All causes	6,602
1.	Unintentional injuries	5,224	Unintentional injuries	2,415
2.	Malignant neoplasms	1,497	Malignant neoplasms	1,000
3.	Congenital anomalies	561	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	396
4.	Homicide	415	Homicide	341
5.	Diseases of heart	330	Suicide	272
6.	Pneumonia and influenza	194	Diseases of heart	252
7.	Suicide	142	Influenza and pneumonia	106
8.	Benign neoplasms	104	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	104
9.	Cerebrovascular diseases	95	Cerebrovascular diseases	95
10.	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	85	Septicemia	81
15–24 years				
...	All causes	49,027	All causes	34,234
1.	Unintentional injuries	26,206	Unintentional injuries	15,753
2.	Homicide	6,537	Homicide	5,466
3.	Suicide	5,239	Suicide	4,212
4.	Malignant neoplasms	2,683	Malignant neoplasms	1,717
5.	Diseases of heart	1,223	Diseases of heart	1,119
6.	Congenital anomalies	600	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	504
7.	Cerebrovascular diseases	418	Diabetes mellitus	202
8.	Pneumonia and influenza	348	Cerebrovascular diseases	196
9.	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	141	Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	183
10.	Anemias	133	Influenza and pneumonia	172

See footnotes at end of table.

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Age and rank order	1980		2005	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
25–44 years				
...	All causes	108,658	All causes	126,710
1.	Unintentional injuries	26,722	Unintentional injuries	30,916
2.	Malignant neoplasms	17,551	Malignant neoplasms	18,167
3.	Diseases of heart	14,513	Diseases of heart	15,937
4.	Homicide	10,983	Suicide	11,540
5.	Suicide	9,855	Homicide	7,861
6.	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	4,782	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease	5,681
7.	Cerebrovascular diseases	3,154	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	2,999
8.	Diabetes mellitus	1,472	Cerebrovascular diseases	2,806
9.	Pneumonia and influenza	1,467	Diabetes mellitus	2,662
10.	Congenital anomalies	817	Influenza and pneumonia	1,288
45–64 years				
...	All causes	425,338	All causes	458,831
1.	Diseases of heart	148,322	Malignant neoplasms	149,645
2.	Malignant neoplasms	135,675	Diseases of heart	103,311
3.	Cerebrovascular diseases	19,909	Unintentional injuries	29,192
4.	Unintentional injuries	18,140	Diabetes mellitus	16,992
5.	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	16,089	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	16,724
6.	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	11,514	Cerebrovascular diseases	16,409
7.	Diabetes mellitus	7,977	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	14,643
8.	Suicide	7,079	Suicide	11,201
9.	Pneumonia and influenza	5,804	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	6,169
10.	Homicide	4,019	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease	6,128
65 years and over				
...	All causes	1,341,848	All causes	1,788,189
1.	Diseases of heart	595,406	Diseases of heart	530,926
2.	Malignant neoplasms	258,389	Malignant neoplasms	388,322
3.	Cerebrovascular diseases	146,417	Cerebrovascular diseases	123,881
4.	Pneumonia and influenza	45,512	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	112,716
5.	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	43,587	Alzheimer's disease	70,858
6.	Atherosclerosis	28,081	Influenza and pneumonia	55,453
7.	Diabetes mellitus	25,216	Diabetes mellitus	55,222
8.	Unintentional injuries	24,844	Unintentional injuries	36,729
9.	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis	12,968	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	36,416
10.	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	9,519	Septicemia	26,243

... Category not applicable.

NOTES: For cause of death codes based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision (ICD–9)* in 1980 and ICD–10 in 2005, see [Appendix II, Cause of death; Tables IV and V](#).

SOURCES: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System; *Vital statistics of the United States, Vol II, mortality, part A*, 1980. Washington, DC: Public Health Service. 1985; 2005 annual mortality file.